

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 remain in the application. Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly define the operation of the electronic money information altering unit of the communications terminal and that the electronic money settlement of collecting a print fee is performed in the communications terminal. Support for these amendments can be found in at least paragraphs 0041 and 0051-0055 and FIG. 8 of the present application. It is submitted respectfully that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More specifically, claim 4 recites the phrase "communications device" and the Examiner asserted "there is insufficient antecedent basis for this phrase in the claim". Claims 2, 5 and 8 were rejected to because their dependency on claim 4.

Claim 4 has been amended change "communications device" to "communications terminal", and hence to be consistent with the term used throughout claim 4. It is submitted that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki (US 2002/0041394) in view of Rosen (US 6,205,436), Kawan (US 6,442,532), Hansmann et al. (US 2001/0016835) and Nakamura (US 2004/0172359) as set forth on pages 3-5 of the office action dated September 17, 2008.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner asserted that Aoki, Rosen, Kawan and Hansmann disclose and teach the invention substantially as in the previously presented claims for the reasons set forth in the Office Action of February 11, 2008. The Examiner admits "Aoki does not disclose the following new limitation: • the electronic money

information altering unit of the communications device subtracts a certain amount of money equivalent to the print data corresponding to the document 10 from the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in accordance with an instruction sent from the accounting control unit and received by the sending/receiving unit to subtract the certain amount of electronic money (e.g. the local communication between user's electronic money terminal and a settlement terminal results in subtracting an amount of electronic money from the user's electronic terminal to settle the payment of goods purchased)". The Examiner then asserted that "Nakamura teaches a settlement process involving the use of an electronic money system comprising a settlement terminal (e.g. accounting control unit) for receiving and executing a request for settlement processing with at least one sort of electronic money, and a mobile terminal (e.g. mobile phone) including electronic money storage means for storing and holding a plurality of various sorts of the electronic money, in which the mobile terminal transmits a request for settlement processing with the electronic money in agreement with the settlement terminal. Nakamura also teaches that if the electronic money available in the mobile phone is the wrong type or the amount of currency needed is not enough, the user is able to rectify this by connecting with the electronic money exchange server to perform a currency exchange (Abstract; 0002, 0008, 0026, 0028 and 0039)".

Amended claim 4 is directed to a wide area network printing system including, inter alia, an accounting control device, a communications terminal, a server and an image forming apparatus, "whereby the electronic money information altering unit of the communications terminal subtracts a certain amount of money equivalent to the print data corresponding to the document ID from the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in accordance with an instruction sent from the accounting control unit and

received by the sending/receiving unit to subtract the certain amount of electronic money and perform an electronic money settlement of collecting a print fee equivalent to the print data, and the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate with the communications terminal, and it reads out the print data identified by the document ID from the print data storing unit, and sends the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving from the communications terminal a notification notifying that a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal when the document ID is received from the transmitting unit of the image forming apparatus" (Emphasis added). The communications terminal of the invention defined by amended claim 4 performs not only notification to the server that the subtraction of the amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of print data has occurred and is completed, but also performs the subtraction of the amount of the electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data in the communications terminal itself thereby performing an electronic money settlement of collecting a print fee equivalent to the print data in the communications terminal.

Nakamura is directed to an electronic money system including a settlement terminal 40 for receiving and executing a request for settlement processing with at least one sort of electronic money, and a mobile terminal 10 including electronic money storage means for storing and holding a plurality of various sorts of the electronic money, in which the mobile terminal transmits a request for settlement processing with the electronic money in agreement with the settlement terminal. The system of Nakamura further includes an electronic money exchange server 30 for performing an exchange of one sort of electronic money (e.g., yen) on the mobile terminal for another type of electronic money (e.g., dollar) in agreement with the settlement terminal. After the exchange, the user of the

mobile terminal performs the settlement processing in the settlement terminal with the exchanged electronic money.

In contrast, according to the invention of amended claim 4, a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal owned by the user. Then, when the server receives from the communications terminal a notification notifying that subtraction of the certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is completed, the server sends print data corresponding to the document ID to the image forming apparatus. The system of amend claim 4 is different than the system of Nakamura wherein the settlement is performed in the settlement terminal 40. Nakamura does not disclose "the electronic money information altering unit of the communications terminal subtracts a certain amount of money equivalent to the print data corresponding to the document ID from the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in accordance with an instruction sent from the accounting control unit and received by the sending/receiving unit to subtract the certain amount of electronic money and perform an electronic money settlement of collecting a print fee equivalent to the print data" as recited in amended claim 4. Rather, Nakamura discloses a settlement terminal 40, separate from a user's communication terminal, e.g., the mobile phone 10 of Nakamura, for performing the electronic money settlement. According to the invention of amended claim 4, the server is dependent on the notification of the settlement; in other words, the settlement is completed in a mobile phone and the server sends data after confirming the completion of settlement.

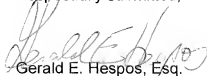
Nakamura merely discloses that a mobile phone requests exchange of "yen" for "dollar" and stores the exchanged amount of electronic money, the exchange process being executed in exchange server. On the other hand, according to the invention of claim

4, a mobile phone performs a processing of subtracting an amount of money equivalent to a fee (i.e., completing the settlement) and sends the notification to the server. The server merely sends data to the mobile phone upon receiving the notification. Therefore, Nakamura and the claimed invention are completely different from one another. In summary, according to the claimed invention, subtraction of an amount equivalent to a fee (i.e., completion of settlement) is confirmed in a mobile phone, the mobile phone sends a notification notifying completion of the settlement to the server, and the server sends data to a printer upon receiving the notification. Thus, the claimed invention enhances reliability of collecting print fees.

It is submitted that amended claim 4 is patentable over the Aoki, Rosen, Kawan, Hansmann or Nakaruma alone or in any combination. Claims 2, 5 and 8 all depend from amended claim 4 and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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